

An Independent Newspaper of Democratic Principles, but not Controlled by any Set of Politicians or Manipulators, Devoted to Collecting and Publishing all the News of the Day in the most interesting Shape and with the greatest possible Promptness, Accuracy and Impartiality; and to the Promotion of Democratic Ideas and Policy in the affairs of Government, Society and Industry.

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Address: THE SUN, New York City.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1885.

Amusements Today.

Elgin Opera House—Cape Academy, 1 P.M.
Baldy's Theatre—Leverett's, 7 P.M.
Eden Music—Takemoto's, 7 P.M.
Grand Opera House—Savoyard, 8 P.M.
Koster & Bial's—Belasco, 8 P.M.
Knickerbocker Theatre—Theatre Royal, 8 P.M.
Metropolitan Opera House—Metropolitan, 8 P.M.
New Park Theatre—Moline's, 8 P.M.
Nibbs' Garden—Streets by the Light of the Moon, 8 P.M.
Peoples Theatre—Cape Academy, 8 P.M.
Star Theatre—Princess, 8 P.M.
Standard Theatre—Alibi, 8 P.M.
Theatre Royal—New, 8 P.M.
Toys Pastors Theatre—Theatre Royal, 8 P.M.
Union Square Theatre—Dose-Wise, 8 P.M.
Wallacks Theatre—Vivian Parke, 8 P.M.
6th Avenue Theatre—W. C. Fields, 8 P.M.
13th Street Theatre—The World of Susan, 8 P.M.

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General Grant.

There is no citizen of the United States who does not cherish a feeling of admiration and gratitude for the military services of Gen. GRANT, and a sympathy for the disasters which have been brought upon him.

In view of these disasters, an effort is making to obtain a pension for him from Congress, or an act restoring him to the army as a retired officer, but with full pay.

This effort ought not to succeed. There is no reason for granting a pension from the national Treasury; nor should any man who has resigned from the army to become President, be restored to it afterward. No such precedent ought to be established.

Yet the public sympathy should be manifested toward Gen. GRANT in an effective manner proceeding from the masses of the people. We propose a great popular subscription, the amount given by each subscriber to be limited. In no case should any one be permitted to give more than ten dollars; and the proceeds of this subscription should be put into the hands of trustees, who would pay over the interest regularly, and after the death of Gen. GRANT and Mrs. GRANT, deliver the principal as the survivor should direct.

It is not for THE SUN to conduct such a subscription or to name the treasurer into whose hands the money should be paid; but we shall take the greatest pleasure in co-operating with any of our contemporaries of the press, or with any body of citizens, in promoting it to the utmost extent of our power.

The people should speak in these circumstances. They want to help Gen. GRANT; not that they owe him any debt, or that they can owe any man a debt, who, in such an emergency, has had the great good fortune to do his duty to the country with success. No such man does more than his duty, and the fact is compensation enough. But we do not wish to see the declining days of this eminent patriotic soldier clouded with misfortune; and we ask our fellow citizens to take hold and lift the burden off.

France and the United States of Colombia.

For some time past a rumor has been circulated in some of the journals of this country, to the effect that the Government of the United States of Colombia is preparing to cede to France the territory along the Panama Canal, and that a French protectorate will presently be established over the State of Panama, a member of the Colombian Union.

We have the highest authority for stating that this rumor is entirely destitute of foundation. Moreover, the Constitution of the United States of Colombia renders it impossible for the Government of that country to make any such cession or to enter into negotiations looking toward it.

We believe that no American Government is more truly penetrated with the American spirit, and none is less disposed to admit of European interference, than the Government of Colombia.

Reform.

The Democratic party is gradually awakening to a sense of the heavy responsibility which the success of its Presidential ticket imposes upon its leaders. The Albany letter in THE SUN of the 8th has been read very widely, and its fair but friendly presentation of the difficulties to be surmounted by the Democratic Administration has had a sobering effect.

It is only just to say that Gov. CLEVELAND has grown in public estimation through the election. It has been more on the Republican side than on the Democratic. Many Republicans who voted against him regret that they did so, while many Democrats begin to fear that his political character will be something other than they counted upon, and had a right to count upon, in the nomine of the Democratic party. Their ph is still in the pole in which he came to market, and until he emerges from the bag not much more will be known about him.

Gov. CLEVELAND says he is a Democrat; he has "kept the faith," and he intends to administer the Government on Democratic principles. In that case he will need the assistance of Democratic officials, all the way through and from top to bottom. Nor will he hesitate about bringing them in as rapidly as may be. It has probably never occurred to the professional civil service reformers of

Republican antecedents that the first great condition precedent of real reform is the expulsion of the whole swarm of Republican placemen, who, owing their positions to machine politicians, have, with remarkable unscrupulousness, prostituted them to the service of the spoils party, which succeeded the party of LINCOLN and CRANSTON and SWANSON. There must be a cleaning out and a cleaning up before the house can be put in order for the work expected from a reform Administration. That done, the new President could begin, with free hands, to fill the offices with men of recognized fitness, a large majority of whom at least should be in sympathy with the popular verdict pronounced in November.

It is by no means certain that this is not precisely Mr. CLEVELAND'S view of the question. His letter to Mr. CURRIS will bear that construction as well as any other. Nobody ever doubted that he would obey his oath and execute the civil service law. It places no restriction upon the power of removal; it merely compels a sort of school examination on the part of the aspirants for a few thousand clerkships, which are, in a political sense, unimportant.

Reform in the general Government—reform in the broad and proper sense—will be very little affected one way or the other by a little book of rules and regulations for the appointment of clerks. It is the power of removal, resolutely exercised, which carries terror where terror needs to be felt. The Government is reformed the moment a determined and honest man with clear ideas of the wants of the public service becomes its executive head. Reform never rises from below; it comes crashing down from above.

The power of the President in our system is irresistible when exerted for purposes commanding popular approval. JEFFERSON determined that his Administration should be frank, honest, Democratic, and it was the first and greatest reform administration in our history. It must be the model of all other Administrations which aim at the same objects. Indeed, to be Democratic after that pattern is the beginning and the end of reform; for it is the grand reform which includes all lesser ones. Let Mr. CLEVELAND understand this and he is safe enough, since he is to stand fault with the man at the helm than to steer the ship through stormy waters. Some of the old Democratic leaders will recall the terrible onslaught which the young Republican organization made upon the Administration of Mr. BUCHANAN, carrying the country against it by the election of a majority of the House in the middle of his term. This is precisely what the Republicans of today intend to do with the Administration of Mr. CLEVELAND when the next House is chosen.

Those who rally around CLEVELAND will find the Republican party just as audacious and determined, quite as vigorous in assault and as difficult to be successfully resisted, as when it drove BUCHANAN's Administration from the office of the president.

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